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HOUSE RESOLUTION 234
By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to recognize the value of the projected
TennCare Schizophrenia Center of Excellence,
to be initially located in Shelby County.

WHEREAS, the TennCare Centers of Excellence Program (COE) was established to identify the top ten priority disease states within the TennCare population and demonstrate that appropriate use of pharmaceuticals can reduce total health care expenditures by improving outcomes; the program will use data-driven, evidence-based guidelines to improve prescribing habits and educate providers and patients about the benefits of appropriate medication use; and

WHEREAS, as a part of the COE program, TennCare is applying for a Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) Model Demonstration Grant to establish a Schizophrenia Center for Excellence, to be initially located in Shelby County; CHCS will fund three-year grants of up to \$700,000; and

WHEREAS, the Schizophrenia Center program will identify patients with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) as the target group; SPMI's are some of the highest users of health care services and, therefore, a prime target for intervention; and

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WHEREAS, the Schizophrenia Center will apply principles using evidenced-based medication guidelines to promote compliance and appropriate dosing for antipsychotic medications similar to those goals identified in the overall COE program; involvement of the family or care giver will be a key program component; and

WHEREAS, one proposal for the Schizophrenia COE project is to assemble a clinical services network composed of pharmacists, nutritionists, nurses, social workers, mental health case managers and physicians to treat the patient initially in the hospital or step down unit and then continue care in the group home setting; program components may mirror the Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) model and program design already implemented by a number of states; and

WHEREAS, the TennCare COE design will focus on appropriate medication use, compliance and coordinated care between general medical and behavior health providers; the grant request specifies a program that addresses the lack of coordinated care between the PCPs and BHO providers within the SPMI population, with the goal of creating a seamless intervention system; and

WHEREAS, the projected TennCare Schizophrenia Center of Excellence program seems very likely to produce significantly improved outcomes and a much more effective use of public funds on behalf of the SPMI population in Tennessee and, as such, is worthy of our approval and support; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby express our approval of and support for the projected TennCare Schizophrenia Center of Excellence, to be located in Shelby County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

